

Serial No.: 10/538,323

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A disk assembly for use in centrifugation comprising [[a]] first and second elements arranged for relative movement and made of materials having respective densities such that said first element floats above said second element in a fluid, and said second element assumes a predetermined position in said fluid, and a pin extending from said first element and carrying said second element.
2. (Currently amended) ~~An A-disk~~ assembly according to claim [[1]] 15 further including a pin extending from said first element and carrying said second element.
3. (Currently amended) ~~An A-disk~~ assembly according to claim 2 further comprising a third element below said second element for providing stability to said assembly.
4. (Currently amended) ~~AA~~ an assembly according to claim 15 floating element for assuming a predetermined position between components of different densities wherein one of said element elements is made of materials having a density gradient in a vertical direction.
5. (Currently amended) ~~A floating element~~ An assembly according to claim 4 wherein said element one of said elements is conical.
6. (Currently amended) ~~A floating element~~ An assembly according to claim [[4]] 15 further comprising a peripheral seal on at least one of said elements.
7. (Currently amended) ~~A floating element~~ An assembly according to claim [[6]] in combination with wherein said barrel comprises a syringe.
8. (Currently amended) A method of separating components of a fluid by centrifugation comprising the steps of providing a syringe having a barrel with an end portion and upper and lower spaced floating elements in said barrel, said upper and lower elements having respective densities such that said upper element floats above said lower element in said fluid after centrifugation with said lower element in a predetermined position in said fluid, and the configuration of an interior surface of said end portion conforms to the configuration of an upper surface of said upper element connected for relative movement and configured to provide a maximum distance between them, drawing said fluid into said syringe, placing said syringe and fluid in a

Serial No.: 10/538,323

centrifuge and subjecting them to centrifugation, and expressing a first separated component above said upper element components from said syringe through said end portion, and subsequently expressing a second separated component between said upper and lower elements from said end portion.

9. (New) A method according to claim 8 wherein said step of expressing comprises expressing a first component until said upper surface of said upper element ~~to engage~~ engages said interior surface.

10. (New) A method according to claim 8 wherein said upper and lower elements are connected to each other to define their maximum separation.

11. (New) A method according to claim 8 wherein said upper and lower elements are vertically movable with respect to each other.

12. (New) A method according to claim 11 wherein said step of expressing comprises the step of causing said lower element to move toward said upper element.

13. (New) A method according to claim 8 wherein said first and second elements are at a fixed distance from each other.

14. (New) A method according to claim 13 wherein said step of expressing comprises causing a fluid component below said lower element to flow into a space between said first upper and lower elements to expel a fluid component previously in said space.

15. (New) An assembly for use in centrifugal separation of a fluid into components, comprising a barrel configured to contain said fluid and having an end portion through which fluid components can be expressed from said barrel, and upper and lower elements arranged in said barrel for movement in said fluid, said upper and lower elements being made of materials with respective densities such that said upper element floats above said lower element in said fluid after centrifugation with said lower element floating in a predetermined position in said fluid with respect to a desired component of said fluid, and wherein the configuration of the interior surface of said end portion of said barrel conforms to the configuration of an upper surface of said upper element, whereby a component of said fluid above said upper element may be expressed, and said upper element has a fluid channel to pass fluid from beneath said upper element whereby a component of said fluid between said upper and lower

Serial No.: 10/538,323

elements may be subsequently expressed with said upper component in contact with said end portion.

16. (New) An assembly according to claim 15 wherein said upper and lower elements are configured to provide a space between them and comprises means for allowing a fluid below said lower element to flow into said space and express fluids in said space through said fluid channel.

17. (New) An assembly according to claim 16 wherein said means for allowing comprises spaced strips.

18. (New) An assembly according to claim 15 wherein said upper and lower elements are movable with respect to each other and configured to provide a space between them for receiving a second component of said fluid and to express said second component of said fluid as said upper and lower elements move toward each other.

19. (New) An assembly according to claim 18 wherein a periphery of said upper element slidably engages a periphery of said lower element whereby said upper element may move with respect to said lower element.

20. (New) An assembly according to claim 18 further comprising a pin on which one of said upper and lower elements moves when said upper element moves with respect to said lower element.

21. (New) An assembly according to claim 18 wherein a lower surface of said upper element and an upper surface of said lower element have mating troughs.

22. (New) A disk assembly according to claim 1 further comprising a third element below said second element for providing stability to said assembly.

23. (New) A disk assembly according to claim 1 wherein said first element includes a fluid channel to pass fluid from beneath said upper element whereby a component of said fluid between said first and second elements can be expressed through said fluid channel.